Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) is a registered nurse who, with an additional 2 to 3 years of education, has specialized in the administration of anesthesia through the completion of a nationally approved program of nurse anesthesia, passed a national certified examination, and is recertified every 2 years; and,

Whereas, A CRNA provides anesthesia services in all settings in which anesthesia is delivered, and is not required by state or federal law to be supervised or directed by physician anesthesiologists; and,

Whereas, Currently there are 372 active licensed nurse anesthetists providing anesthesia care to South Dakota citizens; and,

Whereas, According to the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, more than two-thirds of all rural hospitals rely on CRNAs to provide anesthesia care, and without these advanced practice nurses, some 1,500 facilities would be unable to maintain trauma stabilization, surgical, and obstetrical capabilities, forcing many rural Americans to travel long distances for such services; and,

Whereas, Each year, CRNAs working in hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, physicians' offices, medical facilities of the U.S. Military, Veterans Administration, and Public Health Service are the hands-on providers of approximately 27 million anesthetics given to patients in the United States; and,

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim January 24-30, 2010, as

NURSE ANESTHETIST WEEK

in South Dakota, and I further request my fellow South Dakotans to pay special tribute to these important members of the health team during this week and throughout the year.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-ninth Day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State